

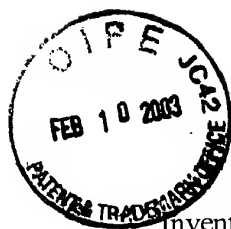
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SP00-295

TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Inventor: Craft et al.

Serial No: 09/675,352

Filing Date: 9/29/00

Title: METHOD FOR PREGOBGING
AN OPTICAL FIBER AND
SYSTEM PRODUCING
OPTICAL FIBER THEREFROM

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Hoffmann

REPLY

#AR
Feb
#11/B(E)
d.l.H.
2-1403

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated November 6, 2002, designated as Paper No. 10 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and consider the Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

(Twice Amended) 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of heating is accomplished by at least one induction coil heating the preform.

(Twice Amended) 13. A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform, comprising the steps of:

- a) heating a consolidated optical fiber preform within a chamber of a heating furnace having a first temperature profile to allow a gob to drop under the influence of heat and gravity,
- b) removing additional glass from the preform in the heating furnace until a draw tip having a pre-optimized tip shape is formed wherein the pre-optimized tip shape includes a tip taper having a ratio, defined as tip length divided by radius change over the tip length, of between about 5 to about 12, and